

FOREWORD FOR 1942

Defense is the word of the hour, and when we become 21 years of age, as we are tonight, we are drafted to defend our country, our community, and our Y.W.C.A. Everyone of us is asked to do his or her bit, to help make the Y.W.C.A. a strong bulwark in this terrible struggle for democracy the world over. The tie between our Central Association and our Sojourner Truth Branch grows stronger and so it must be as the years go by, until we have built the kind of Y.W.C.A. that has always been our ideal. It may not be easy at this particular time, for this may be one of the most difficult years through which we have lived. Life must be adjusted in every area, and we must stand united regardless of race, color or creed. If we do this, then we can go forward through this upheaval of war to preserve the things that have been most vital and dear to us. Can we count on you beginning tonight to help us build this kind of a Christian world in Newark that we would like to see?

Florence S. Brown

Chairman
Branch Committee

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

As the year 1941 made its grand entrance we pledged our loyalty to the "all out" policy announced by President Roosevelt. At that time we agreed that social agencies were the "great arsenals of democracy" because of the value placed on human personality. Furthermore, we decided that the Sojourner Truth Branch of the Newark Young Women's Christian Association should be significant as a "great arsenal of democracy".

We feared the centering of attention on planes, guns and bombs would lessen the concern of the state and the nation for the less spectacular, less militant phases of defense. However, at the end of twelve months there is an awareness of the need for maintaining civilian morale thru the normal community life and preparedness for an emergency. As Paul V. McNutt has capably stated: "Community action in national defense now implies national action for community service".

At the Y.W.C.A. a group of girls gathered around the radio listening to the historic address of the President following the Pearl Harbor incident. At the close their responses were varied but behind words was concern for husbands, boy friends, fathers and brothers who would be drawn into this second attempt to preserve democracy. After, a lengthy discussion one girl turned to me and said, "You have a bigger job than you've ever had before." Is this not an indication that the growing insecurity in personal life, must be met with security in group life?

How then has the Sojourner Truth Branch attempted to be an "arsenal of democracy" - providing that needed group security?

In the first place, in the Y.W.C.A. we consider the present emergency program and defense activities as lengthened shadows of a good Y.W.C.A. program. Hours and conditions of work, wages, nutrition, religious emphases, leadership development, health, consumer education, democratic procedure, interracial and international interests were as important to us 1932 as they will be in 1942.

Perhaps the greatest attention has been centered - on jobs for Negro girls and women. We do not have an employment bureau at the Branch so our program was not one of recruiting and placement but of a long range educational character. We have participated in conferences of local and

state wide interest, have interviewed employment officials - and personnel directors and, where advisable, contacts have been made by letter.

With the large turn over in clerical and secretarial positions we sought that as a new field to be tried by numbers of Negro girls. A group of business girls met irregularly to exchange experiences in securing employment and on the job. Most of the girls were in clerical positions but were over-worked and under-paid.

As the year closes the Industrial Committee is not giving itself the traditional pat-on-the-back nor is it discouraged. Some placements have been made due to our efforts, some have been made because other agencies are working in the same field, and some were made because of the President's Executive Order. We are most concerned about those places where no inroads have been made because "the time is not ripe".

After eight months one employer returned to say he had decided to give us a trial. Today our young people are making good in that factory. This is encouraging and also assures us that all other employers and personnel managers visited remember that we were there.

Because a large number of Negro girls are trained in the Y.W.C.A. Secretarial School and no responsibility has been assumed for their placement we have worked together in the interest of these students. This remains an important item on our 1942 agenda.

Negro porters and maids have been a part of the Staff at Central but it was in 1941 that we saw a position in the Business Office filled by a Negro woman and a Negro girl employed in the Health Education Department as pianist.

Because we were able to stimulate interest on the part of a member of the National Board three Negro girls have been added to the clerical staff at the National Board in New York City. One of these girls is a graduate of the Newark Y.W.C.A. Secretarial School.

Furthermore, the Industrial Committees of Central and the Branch have cooperated throughout the year. They are pace setters for the rest of the Association in this respect.

The recruiting of members and the development of leadership are essential to the life and growth of the Branch. Our goal of 500 members was exceeded by 36. From this new group we recruited committee members, club leaders and program specialists. A definite program is conducted for their education. Through monthly committee meetings, advisor's training courses, general membership programs, inter-Association get-togethers, Committee Day and the Fall Setting up Conference, the members receive an understanding of our organizational structure, our method of procedure, a feeling of participation and a sense of responsibility for the development of the Branch.

Important features of our program are the summer and mid-winter conferences for club members. Two Girl Reserves and a leader attended the Summer Conference at Sloan Lake, Connecticut. Two members of our adult clubs attended the Industrial Conference at Summit Lake. Three delegates attended the National Negro Youth Conference held in Washington, D. C. in the Fall.

The organization of an Adult Inter Club Council in October has worked toward unifying our club program. Community leaders have been invited to discuss current problems with the group. Council members are cooperating with important groups at Central and in the city.

While the organization of the Council represents an important achievement in our program the Adult Clubs lack the leadership necessary to make them the effective units they could be. This resolves itself into the old, old story of inadequate staff.

Our program with younger girls has been outstanding for its Service Clinics, Stay-at-Home Camp and Camp Ironsides.

The Service Clinics conducted in the spring by members of the Girl Reserve Committee provided opportunities for club members to discuss personal problems involving school, home, church and religion, parents, vocational guidance, health and boy friends. Because this committee is composed of women engaged in these various fields their services were invaluable. The seminars held in connection with the clinics guided the leaders and give them an opportunity to present problems they discovered in their interviews.

The project lessened the gap between club and committee members, a situation that has long needed remedying.

With the same enthusiasm the Girl Reserve Committee secured the support of the entire Branch in "Y's a Poppin" - their Camp Ironsides benefit. Dignified committee women forgot themselves and became actresses for a night. None of the patrons asked for refunds and the goal of the committee was reached.

For the first time in a number of years our Girl Reserve Secretary was on a full time contract and we are able to carry a summer program for school girls. An excellent piece of work was done. Thirty-five girls participated in a daily program including music, dramatics, crafts, swimming, hiking and trips led by a group of college trained women.

Camp Ironsides, a project sponsored by the Y.W.C.A.'s of Orange, Montclair, and Newark, received 72 campers from Sojourner Truth Branch. To our great sorrow we were forced to turn girls away. Increased employment, the Newark News Fresh Aid Fund and the growing interest in camping are responsible for this successful season.

The entire war situation is closely allied to our interest in the participation of women in the total life of Newark. Today modern warfare is brought to our doorsteps and it gives women an added responsibility. In World War I women sewed, knitted and made bandages. In 1942 these activities are being supplemented by air raid wardens, first aid and home nursing assistants, canteen workers, motor corps units, plane spotters and pilots. The increase in employment has drawn women from the home into the factory and as older men are called into service more women will be needed. This shifting of man power will create opportunities for Negro women both as volunteers and as paid workers.

Through the Public Affairs Committee we have offered Red Cross First Aid training, forums and discussion on city and county government, a study of the migrant worker in New Jersey, and information on the part of the consumer in defense. These groups have stimulated interest and request for more have come from members.

During the year joint meetings promoted by sub committees have been held with other Branches in this area. House Committees have gotten together to discuss common problems and plan ways of working them out. They have been inspirational for all who have participated and have led to increased interest in other phases of the programs of the Branches.

Recently the Branch Industrial Committee initiated a series of meetings with all Industrial Committees in New Jersey invited. They hope through this joint endeavor to encourage other committees to tackle local problems and to exchange techniques.

The Education Committee is promoting good will between the Churches and the Branch. This is being done by interviewing ministers, using them as speakers and also inviting the Choirs to appear as guests on our vesper programs. The Y.W.C.A. in turn has provided speakers and discussion group leaders for church groups. Early in 1942 an informal religious education series prepared for adolescents will give us a link with the Sunday Schools and youth groups in the Churches.

The House and Finance Committee have worked diligently to keep the building clean, attractive and in repair. Our own clubs, classes, committees, parties, dances, vespers, forums and musicals in addition to 19 private groups and 54 community groups have taken their toll on floor coverings, furniture and kitchen equipment. To supplement the lack of funds to cover deterioration several successful events were sponsored during the year. Money received from rentals, the Palm Sunday Breakfast, the Popularity Contest, the Hostess Dinner and other smaller endeavors was used to paint the first and second floors, to purchase 66 folding chairs, a kitchen table, dishes and linens, and so - through our endeavors to understand and meet the needs of our constituents, and to cooperate with constructive community projects we are helping to meet this major crisis.

In all our undertakings volunteers have worked side by side with the Staff. Had it not been for the Branch Committee under the leadership of Mrs. William E. Brown and the one hundred women who served on sub committees this report would not be possible.

We are grateful to the Works Progress Administration and the National Youth Administration for the young women, they have assigned to us. We are particularly grateful for Miss Ethel Raney who has kept us singing at 20 Jones Street and 53 Washington Street.

We are undergoing some staff changes. Mrs. Landonia Marrow, Girl Reserve Secretary for four years, was succeeded September 1, 1941 by Miss Lois Lambert of York, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Gertrude Bailey who has been our clerical worker for three years will be succeeded by Miss Olivia Roberts, on January 15, 1942.

Both Mrs. Marrow and Mrs. Bailey are devoting their time to home and family.

The present status of the Branch, its recognition and leadership in the community and the democratic processes within the Y.W.C.A. itself would not be possible without the support of the Board of Trustees of which Mrs. Edward E. Rhodes, is President.

We are sure there is no other General Secretary who rates the respect and confidence that the Clubs, Committees, Branch Committee and Staff hold for our Miss Elisabeth Rogers.

The cooperation of the Staff and all departments at Central has made it possible for us to increase our joint-activities. As the international situation gains momentum there is an increased need for a unified approach to all problems affecting women and girls.

With 1941 now a part of history we face 1942 with confidence. We do not know what new problems the year will bring but 21 years of experience from the days of southern migration to World War II have prepared the Branch for SERVICE.

For the recent Lester Granger Luncheon the topic was "After Defense - What?". This subject was selected because now is the time to plan for the future. In 1943 it may not be possible to assemble and review the work of the year just beginning. It matters not if the building still stands at 20 Jones Street for we have the assurance that our ideals will not crumble but through air raids, bombings, defeats and victories there will be laid foundations for new "arsenals of democracy".

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Elizabeth Wood

Mary Elizabeth Wood
Executive Secretary

GIRL RESERVE DEPARTMENT

Sojourner Truth is 21 years of age today, and is expected now to be able to shoulder many more and heavier responsibilities. But for a long time she has been aware of her responsibilities and has opened wider and wider her doors in service to her family and friends.

War, the wrath of the age is upon her now as it is upon every hamlet, city, state and nation of the world. The speed-up of defense production and the draft for men with its disintegration influence on our homes and family relationship is hitting the American home life as hard and as distinctively as bombs from plane over Manila.

The Y.W.C.A. is a stronghold for its members and friends and is expected to do and dare for peace and help where it can serve best in the crisis.

The hour hand of time points to the place of our present day youth for after the war is ended these teen-agers will be 21 and upon their shoulders will rest the various chores of making peace an enduring reality. Thus we build now with our youth for the future that we as Christians believe will bring peace on earth.

Especially in reference to the growing girls of our family between 10 to 18 years of age we have a special responsibility. First of all the quality of our leadership must be equal to the tasks that the crisis demands of it.

Despite the good fact that our leadership is volunteer we must maintain a leadership group that can help our youth to understand the background of the crisis and help them to find where they can best serve now and at the same time be preparing for the future. The family ties of Sojourner Truth must be drawn more tightly, including as many of our friends as we can possibly reach near and far.

Even though war turns back the clock of civilization our girls and women by whom the Girl Reserve Department is made and for whom it exist, still have their normal physical, mental, spiritual and social adjustments to make. In these areas personal and group development inflation is setting in due to the stress and strain of the times. Thus it is our task to aid in providing channels of expression that will absorb the surplus energy and guide it to its better end.

Our program is divided into the following groups: committees, clubs, classes, conferences, councils, camp and special events.

The club's program is the major concern of the department as it reaches every girl and finds her interests and helps to provide for her a chance to express herself as an individual personality, as a member of her club group, and of the Girl Reserve Department, and of the Y.W.C.A. Various interest groups that have grown out of the club program are:

music, dramatics, and arts and crafts. Activities of equal importance that have developed through club groups are: vocational, health, personality and health, discussions, dances, socials, parties and trips. New horizons of things to do are opened up where girls from various sections and environments get together and exchange ideas, thus the clubs send delegates to Mid-Winter and Summer Conference and camp.

During the past year classes have been conducted in tap dancing, swimming and gymnasium activities. Health examinations and follow-ups have been carried out through the health education program. Our health education program is before us for study and evaluation and has every possibility of offering a fuller program of events for the new year.

Standing out as landmarks of 1941 are:

The Service Clinic conducted by the Girl Reserve Committee.

Y's a Poppin'

Mother and Daughter Observance

Tap Dance Recital

Stay-At-Home Camp

Christmas Celebration

The cooperation that lead to the success of these events was due to the united interest of the club advisors, the girls and the Girl Reserve Committee and our community of friends.

Our participation in the Inter Camp Association sponsoring Camp Ironsides reached a high ebb of success this year which points to the fact that our Y.W.C.A. organization and community is becoming camp conscious.

We can be grateful to Miss Mary E. Wood, Executive Secretary and Mrs. Pansy Anderson and Mrs. Carrie E. Powell the Co-Chairmen of the Girl Reserve Department, the Girl Reserve Committee, the advisors and Mrs. Landonia Marrow, the Girl Reserve Secretary until September 1941 for their interest and guidance in the work of the department. There is a bright future before us for every leader has reported to her post for duty already for 1942 and the courageous spirit of Sojourner Truth is before us.

Sincerely yours,

Lois Lambert
Lois Lambert

(Jan. 1, 1941-Dec. 31, 1941)
inclusive

Active members January 1, 1941

382

New members during year:

	<u>Electors</u>	<u>Associates</u>	<u>Juniors</u>	<u>Guest</u>	<u>Club</u>
January	6	6	5		
February	9	10	6	1	
March	44	28	3	3	
April	40	26	7	4	
May	3	4	1	3	1
June		5			
July	1	1			
August					
September	6	5	3	1	
October	6	14	5		1
November	4	7	2		
December	1	2	3		
Totals	120	108	35	12	2

Renewals during year:	70
Renewals during year (after three months period)	69
Expirations during year:	150
Total membership January 1 - December 31, 1941	536
Active membership January 1, 1942	439

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

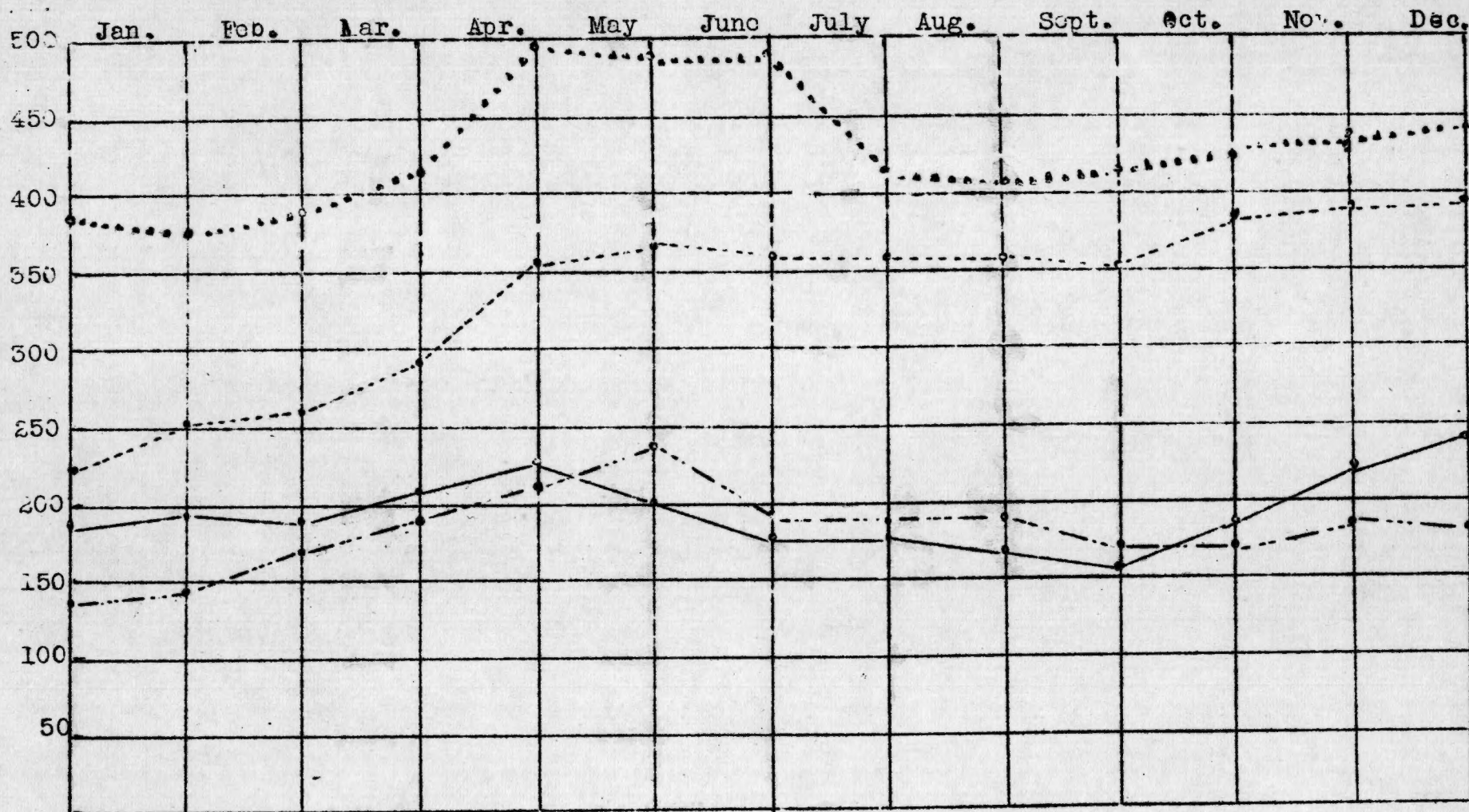
1941

	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
General Administration -----	\$ 775.87	\$ 4028.61
Building Maintenance -----	533.57	2305.11
Girls -----	40.91	1839.34
Totals	\$ 1331.35	8173.06
Camp Ironsides: Membership Fee	\$ 100.00	
Fee for 72 Campers	1354.95	
		Total \$ 1454.95

COMPARATIVE MEMBERSHIP CHART

--- 1938 - Enrollment for year - 257
 — 1939 - Enrollment for year - 305
 - - - 1940 - Enrollment for year - 446
 1941 - Enrollment for year - 536

Note: This chart represents those women, girls and guest members who paid the membership fee.



SPRING PARADE OF EVENTS

January 14 - March 11

Annual Membership Enrollment

Boost your P. Q. (Personality
Quotient) by joining the Y.W.C.A.,
today. It's the thing to do in '42

February 4 - Wednesday - 2:00 - 4:00 P. M.

Consumer's Education Class (10 weeks)

Red Cross First Aid - 7:30 - 9:30 P. M.
(12 weeks)

Sewing Class - 7:30 - 10:00 P. M.
(Continuous to July 1st)

February 22 - Sunday - 3:30 P. M.

Coed Inter Council Forum - Court St., Y.M.C.A.

February 29 - Thursday - 7:30 - 11:30 A. M.

Good Neighbor Fiesta
(Sponsored by Education Committee)

Music - Latin American Food - Entertainment

March 11 - Close of Membership Enrollment

March 13 -

CAMP IRONSIDES BENEFIT

"Y's A Peppin' Again"
(Sponsored by Girl Reserve Com.)

Friday March 13, 1942
Sayre Hall
Reserve a seat now!!!!

March 14 & 15 - Girl Reserve Mid Winter Conference
Hackensack, N. J.

March 20 - 8:00 P. M.

Kiddies Fashion Show (House Committee)

March 29 - 8:00 A. M. - Palm Sunday Breakfast

May 14 - Committee Day